

Message Text

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15

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:SPOLANSKY:JLR

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R 170555Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, UR, US

SUBJECT: PAINTINGS FROM AMERICAN MUSEUMS EXHIBITION

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PAINTINGS FROM AMERICAN MUSEUMS EXHIBITION, ORGANIZED BY ARMAND HAMMER, IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN FEBRUARY 13 AT THE HERMITAGE. ACCORDING TO AMERICAN EXPRESS, WHICH IS MAKING TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS, ABOUT FIFTY US MUSEUM AND ART WORLD PEOPLE WILL BE IN LENINGRAD FOR FOUR DAYS IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPENING. THEY ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE ON FEBRUARY 11. AFTER THE LENINGRAD OPENING, THE GROUP WILL TRAVEL TO MOSCOW, WHERE IT WILL SPEND ABOUT THREE DAYS.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH THE LENINGRAD OPENING, AMERICAN EXPRESS HAS INQUIRED WHETHER THE CONSULATE GENERAL WOULD BE PREPARED TO HOST OR PERHAPS CO-HOST A RECEPTION. AMERICAN EXPRESS WOULD BE WILLING TO ABSORB THE COSTS FOR SUCH A RECEPTION, IF THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL. AMERICAN EXPRESS DOUBTS THAT ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN MOSCOW COULD MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A RECEPTION AND THEREFORE HAS INQUIRED WHETHER THE CONSULATE WOULD BE PREPARED TO BECOME

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INVOLVED.

3. IF CONSULATE PARTICIPATION DOES NOT SEEM APPROPRIATE,
PERHAPS CONGEN COULD PASS ON SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING WAYS
AMERICAN EXPRESS COULD ORGANIZE A RECEPTION IN LENINGRAD.
KISSINGER

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